

02-R-0573

(Do Not Write Above This Line)

A RESOLUTION

BY COUNCIL MEMBER *Patricia A. Moore*

A RESOLUTION STATING THE CITY OF ATLANTA'S SUPPORT OF THE NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES 2002 POLICY PRIORITY CALLING FOR THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY RESOURCES TO UPDATE FLOOD MAPS AND ASSIST CITIES IN LONG-TERM PLANNING AND MAJOR IMPROVEMENTS IN THE QUALITY OF LIFE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

- ☐ CONSENT REFER
☐ REGULAR REPORT REFER
☐ ADVERTISE & REFER
☐ 1st ADOPT 2nd READ & REFER
☒ PERSONAL PAPER REFER

Date Referred

3/18/02

Referred To:

Finance / Executive

Date Referred

Referred To:

Date Referred

Referred To:

First Reading

Committee _____
 Date _____
 Chair _____
 Referred to _____

FINAL COUNCIL ACTION

☐ 2nd ☐ 1st & 2nd ☐ 3rd
 Readings
☐ Consent ☐ V Vote ☐ RC Vote

CERTIFIED

MAYOR'S ACTION

02-R-0573

A RESOLUTION

BY COUNCILMEMBER  **FELICIA A. MOORE**

A RESOLUTION STATING THE CITY OF ATLANTA'S SUPPORT OF THE NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES 2002 POLICY PRIORITY CALLING FOR THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY RESOURCES TO UPDATE FLOOD MAPS AND ASSIST CITIES IN LONG-TERM PLANNING AND MAJOR IMPROVEMENTS IN THE QUALITY OF LIFE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Whereas, Flood Plain Maps are essential tools for local officials to develop comprehensive land use plans and identify projects to mitigate the damage of natural disasters before they strike, and

Whereas, many of the flood maps for the nation's 20,000 flood-prone local jurisdictions are 15 to 30 years old; and

Whereas, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is responsible for coordinating the nation's flood maps and oversees pre- and post-disaster mitigation activities; and

Whereas, out-of-date maps result in structures being built that will flood in the future because the maps do not reflect the latest development; and

Whereas, FEMA has developed a plan to modernize the flood maps using new technology and computerizing the maps in a Geographic Information System (GIS), to save time and money and allow for periodic updates; and

Whereas, in the President's budget for Fiscal Year 2003, the Administration is asking for an unprecedented \$300 million for the flood map modernization program.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ATLANTA CITY COUNCIL AND THE CITY OF ATLANTA, that we urge our Georgia Congressional Delegation to support funding for FEMA's Map and Modernization Program which will help the City of Atlanta and cities across the country in planning activities and disaster preparedness, and

Be It Further Resolved, that the City of Atlanta urges our Congressional Delegation to contact the Senate and House VA-HUD Appropriations subcommittee and urge them to support the Administration's request for \$300 million as a down payment on the \$700 million still needed to complete the mapping process; and

Be it Further Resolved, that the Municipal Clerk of the City of Atlanta is hereby directed to transmit a "true copy" of this resolution to all members to the Georgia Congressional Delegation and the Senate & House VA-HUD Appropriations Sub-Committee.

National League of Cities



2002 Hot Issues

Modernization of the Nation's Flood Maps

This is a priority within the National League of Cities in 2002, which calls on the federal government to provide the necessary resources to cities to help in long-term planning and major improvements in quality of life issues.

Background

Floodplain maps are essential tools for local officials to develop comprehensive land use plans and identify projects to mitigate the damage of natural disasters before they strike. Accurate flood maps can help reduce the risk to citizens and property by providing the necessary tools to help cities make informed decisions about development. Floodplain maps also assist local officials in determining where to locate critical facilities, evacuation routes, and natural resource management.

Many of the flood maps for the nation's 20,000 flood-prone local jurisdictions are 15 to 30 years old. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is responsible for coordinating the nation's flood maps and oversees pre- and post-disaster mitigation activities. Out-of-date maps result in structures being built that will flood in the future because the maps do not reflect the latest development. Actual flooding, such as that experienced after Hurricane Floyd, demonstrates the inaccuracies of old maps. In most serious flood events many buildings that are not in the mapped floodplain are seriously damaged. FEMA's budget for doing new studies in unmapped areas and for updating existing maps is woefully inadequate. As FEMA Director Joe Allbaugh stated, "flood maps are at the heart of [disaster] mitigation."

FEMA developed a plan to modernize the flood maps using new technology and computerizing the

maps in a Geographic Information System (GIS), to save time and money and to allow for periodic updates. The Flood Map Modernization plan also calls for the establishment of cooperating technical communities to facilitate collaboration between FEMA and local governments during the floodplain re-mapping process. FEMA estimates that \$750 million, or \$100 million per year for 7 years, will be needed to modernize the maps.

Status

Currently, FEMA's map costs are funded primarily by federal flood insurance policy holders – fewer than 4 million policy holders pay about \$50 million annually for floodplain mapping. In the past couple years, Congress has provided modest assistance by allocating up to \$15 million from the Disaster Relief Fund for verification of maps only after a disaster has been declared.

Last year, Congress provided an additional \$10 million above the Administration's request for flood map modernization – a total of \$32 million. Additionally, Congress noted that the costs of flooding have exceeded those of any other type of natural disaster.

In the President's budget for Fiscal Year 2003, the Administration is asking for an unprecedented \$300 million for the flood map modernization program. The President's budget notes that flooding stands out

as the "single most pervasive disaster hazard facing the nation," and "modernizing the nation's flood maps is critical to long-term mitigation efforts."

Now focus shifts to the Senate and House VA-HUD and Independent Agencies Appropriations Subcommittees, who have jurisdiction over all FEMA programs. The House VA-HUD subcommittee has been very supportive of the flood map modernization program in the past, specifically including an additional \$50 million in their funding bill last year.

NLC Policy and Position

NLC strongly supports pre-disaster mitigation to help protect lives and property before a disaster strikes. NLC urges the federal government to provide local officials with the tools necessary to prepare for natural disasters and minimize the risk to citizens, including accurate flood information and the technology to keep the information as current as possible.

NLC joined over 15 other groups representing state and local officials, realtors, homebuilders and public works professionals to form a coalition of unlikely allies to support funding for the implementation of FEMA's Map Modernization Program. The coalition has been very active over the last year in advocating for increased funding for the mapping program with Congress and the Administration.

➤➤ACTION

➤*Contact your congressional delegation and urge them to support funding for FEMA's Map Modernization Program. Tell them how maps assist your community in planning activities and disaster preparedness.*

➤*Contact the Senate and House VA-HUD Appropriations subcommittee and urge them to support the Administration's request for \$300 million as a down payment on the \$700 million still needed to complete the mapping process.*

For more information contact:

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